



*"Great Apartments Start Here!"*

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January 30, 2023  
**Via Electronic Mail**

Hon. Mayor Ardy Kassakhian and Members of the City Council  
Council Chambers  
613.E. Broadway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Glendale, California 91206

**Re:** Solid Waste Collection Rates (Agenda Item 9a)

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Dear Hon. Mayor Kassakhian and Members of the Glendale City Council:

At the January 31<sup>st</sup> City Council meeting, the Council will continue a public hearing and consider approving a resolution to restructure and significantly increase the City's solid waste collection rates for single-family and small multi-family customers with less than five units. As the Council considers these rate increases, the Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles (Association) urges your consideration of the concerns and recommendations set forth herein.

While the Association can appreciate that the City's solid waste collection rates have not been increased since 2010 and the related increased City costs including those due to State law changes during that period; we are extremely concerned by these proposed increases which will result in an immediate, astronomical rate adjustment averaging approximately 85% on February 1, 2023 and a five-year plan that would institute further exorbitant increases of 25% over the next two years, with smaller but still significant increases of 8% for each of the three years thereafter.

For the last nearly three years, due to COVID-19 mandates, some of which currently remain in place, rental housing providers, particularly the small independent property owners, have experienced severe financial hardships resulting from challenging rent collections combined with astronomical increases in all types of building and operational costs which have only skyrocketed during the current hyperinflationary period. Consequently, many of our members who are small business rental housing providers, have depleted retirement and other savings or financed critical items with credit cards in order to maintain essential building operations and pay for essential, personal needs, with many now contemplating or being forced into leaving the business entirely.

Due to these extremely challenging financial circumstances, as the City Council contemplates the proposed rate increases, we urge the Council to be cognizant of the impact of the increases on the City's rental housing providers at a time when they are already subject to significant financial pressures and consider further modifications. Accordingly, we request that the City Council consider



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reducing the proposed fee increases, implementing the increases more uniformly over the five-year period, so that small owners are not subject to the proposed initial rate adjustment and further 25% increases all within the next two years. In addition, we urge the City Council to establish a city-funded rate assistance program for residents in need or at minimum provide an opportunity for residents and rental housing providers financially impacted by the pandemic to apply for rate increase deferments and repayment plans, to allow those city residents who are still struggling time to financially recover. Lastly, we urge the Council to direct the Department to further assess its operating budget and look to reduce costs, wherever possible, before passing such significant increases onto customers particularly after property owners have endured nearly three difficult years of imposed COVID-19 regulations and as we are now heading into a recession.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these important issues. If you have any questions, please call me at (213) 384-4131; Ext. 309 or contact me via electronic mail at [danielle@aagla.org](mailto:danielle@aagla.org).

Very truly yours,

*Danielle Leidner-Peretz*

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